

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 173.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

The clerk will report the nomination. The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Lydia Kay Griggsby, of Maryland, to be United States District Judge for the District of Maryland.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 173, Lydia Kay Griggsby, of Maryland, to be United States District Judge for the District of Maryland.

Charles E. Schumer, Richard J. Durbin, Benjamin L. Cardin, Chris Van Hollen, Jacky Rosen, John Hickenlooper, Tammy Baldwin, Richard Blumenthal, Kirsten E. Gillibrand, Raphael Warnock, Martin Heinrich, Christopher Murphy, Sheldon Whitehouse, Bernard Sanders, Jeff Merkley, Patty Murray, Margaret Wood Hassan.

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, finally, I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum calls for the cloture motions filed today, June 14, be waived.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I move to proceed to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

Mr. SCHUMER. I yield the floor.

RECOGNITION OF MINORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Republican leader is recognized.

BURMA

Mr. McCONNELL. Madam President, the military junta that seized power from Burma's democratically elected leaders back in February has kept up

its campaign of brutal and violent repression. More than 800 people are now dead, and more than 5,000 others have been detained on various charges of resistance.

Just today, the longtime leader of Burma's democracy, my good friend Aung San Suu Kyi, stood for the beginning of a show trial. Other members of the National League for Democracy are awaiting their own appearances before the sham court, and many more protesters, journalists, and activists are filling Burma's prisons right up to the rim.

Several foreigners have been among those detained, including Australian economist Sean Turnell and two American journalists, Nathan Maung and Danny Fenster. The State Department has reported that both U.S. citizens were denied consular access. Mr. Maung reportedly even endured torture during his detention.

The people of Burma are well acquainted with the brutality of the Tatmadaw's military rule, but the wider international community is receiving a sobering reminder of the challenges facing the country's pro-democracy movement and of the junta's willingness to flout even the most basic international norms and treaty obligations.

I appreciate the continued attention the Biden administration is giving to the crisis. Over the weekend, I was particularly encouraged by the G-7 leaders' joint condemnation of the junta and by the reiteration of a shared commitment to shutting off the flow of any assistance funds that might help the military further their repression.

Of course, for friends of democracy, including the United States, there is more to be done to translate words into action. It is time to expand the sanctions aimed at the military to include the infamous cronies who continue to make common cause with the Tatmadaw.

It is time for Burma's neighbors and key trading partners to join these sanctions efforts and commit to providing increased humanitarian access and assistance, particularly, I would say, from Thailand.

It is time for greater international scrutiny of the markets for jade and rare earth metals that give the military and other bad actors targets for exploitation.

It is time for international bodies like the U.N. Security Council to put Burma on the agenda and force the Tatmadaw's supporters to defend the brutal regime out in the light of day.

So our work isn't over, but there is reason for optimism. Burma's ethnic minorities, diverse and often divided, have united behind the representative National Unity Government in peaceful opposition to the military rule, and the NUG continues to broaden and deepen this coalition.

Earlier this month, the National Unity Government announced its policy on the status of the Rohingya Mus-

lims in the western state of Rakhine, pledging accountability for those responsible for years—years—of violent persecution and committing to greater inclusion for all of Burma's ethnic minorities.

So, Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the National Unity Government's important statement on this matter be printed in the RECORD at this point.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

REPUBLIC OF THE UNION OF MYANMAR NATIONAL UNITY GOVERNMENT—POLICY POSITION ON THE ROHINGYA IN RAKHINE STATE

3 JUNE 2021

In honour of human rights and human dignity and also to eradicate the conflicts and root causes in the Union, the National Unity Government aims to build a prosperous and federal democratic union where all ethnic groups belonging to the Union can live together peacefully. This objective is clearly stated in the Federal Democratic Charter.

Sovereignty belongs to the member states and the people of the member states as proclaimed in the guiding principles for the establishment of a federal democratic union.

Everyone in the Union has full enjoyment of fundamental human rights. All ethnic groups who are native to the Union have full enjoyment of individual rights held by individual people and collective rights held by ethnic groups. All citizens who swear allegiance to the Union regardless of their ethnic origins are considered to have full enjoyment of citizens' rights. The National Unity Government will not tolerate any form of discrimination.

The National Unity Government regards the above-mentioned policies as a basis in addressing the matters related to the Rohingyas in Rakhine State. We are confident that extensive deliberations, which consider the positions of all stakeholders in Rakhine State, their historical backgrounds, and national and international laws, will enable all to find shared solutions in a way that respects the human rights of all persons.

At present, the elimination of the military dictatorship has become the common goal of the entire people because of the violence committed by the illegitimate military council. It is also the period of national resistance against the military dictatorship. The solidarity of the entire people is now at its best. We are confident that we can rebuild a Union that meets the needs of all those in the country who have a stake in its future.

After consultations with the many different stakeholders in Rakhine States, including Rohingya groups and refugee representatives from the IDP camps, the NUG here makes clear how it will seek to apply these principles for the good of all in the Rakhine State.

The National Unity Government well understands the violence and gross human rights violations inflicted upon Rohingyas by the thuggish military and the massive displacement, with hundreds of thousands fleeing their homes during the conflicts in Rakhine State over the last decades: We are deeply saddened by this. The entire people of Burma is sympathetic to the plight of the Rohingya as all now experience atrocities and violence perpetrated by the military.

Endeavouring to bring the perpetrators to account is not only for the realization of justice but also acts as a deterrent against future atrocities. Therefore, we regard this as a priority task. Reparation and Justice will

be ensured in the future Federal Democratic Union Constitution.

We will actively seek justice and accountability for all crimes committed by the military against the Rohingyas and all other people of Myanmar throughout our history. We intend if necessary to initiate processes to grant International Criminal Court jurisdiction over crimes committed within Myanmar against the Rohingyas and other communities.

We consider that the 88 recommendations set out in the final report of the Advisory Commission on Rakhine State chaired by Dr. Kofi Annan must play a crucial role in addressing the affairs in Rakhine State. These recommendations are based on solutions for the root causes of violence. However, over the past four years, much has changed to make the situation worse in Rakhine State for all ethnic groups there. Using these recommendations as well as other relevant recommendations as inputs, we earnestly believe that we can work together with all the people in Rakhine State to chart a new course towards a democratic inclusive and prosperous future.

We would also like to highlight the importance of legal matters in seeing to the Rakhine question. We will consider the opinions and views of the entire people in the country, including those in Rakhine State, in drafting a new constitution that can resolve the many problems caused by the 2008 constitution. The views and insights of all can contribute to this process. All the people in the country, including all stakeholders in Rakhine State, are invited to participate in the process of drafting the new constitution. Such dialogue is essential to creating a shared future for the country.

The process of repealing, amending, and promulgating laws, including the 1982 Citizenship Law, by the new constitution when the drafting is completed will be beneficial in resolving the conflict in Rakhine State. This new Citizenship Act must base citizenship on birth in Myanmar or birth anywhere as a child of Myanmar Citizens.

We further commit to abolishing the process of issuing National Verification Cards, a process that the military has used against Rohingyas and other ethnic groups coercively and with human rights violations. The Rohingyas are entitled to citizenship by laws that will accord with fundamental human rights norms and democratic federal principles.

The voluntary, safe, and dignified repatriation of Rohingyas who fled to neighbouring countries from Rakhine State due to Tatmadaw violence is a crucial matter. We reaffirm the agreements signed with neighbouring countries for the repatriation process. We are ready to cooperate with all stakeholders of good will in a special programme to implement the process. We are committed to the repatriation of Rohingyas as soon as repatriation can be accomplished voluntarily, safely, and with dignity.

The National Unity Government is a government whose primary duty is to fight the illegal military dictatorship. While we focus on this task, we are also planning for the future. We believe it will be beneficial in building the future democratic federal union to listen to all stakeholders in a spirit of collaboration.

Therefore, we invite Rohingyas to join hands with us and with others to participate in this Spring Revolution against the military dictatorship in all possible ways.

Mr. MCCONNELL. This statement represents months of work to build a cohesive, inclusive, and representative government and the best path toward national reconciliation and justice for

victims of the Tatmadaw's violence. So the NUG's efforts deserve the full support of the world's oldest democracy. The pro-democracy movement must know that the United States continues to stand with them and that we are ready to support the hard work of national reconciliation that still lies ahead.

ATTORNEY GENERAL INVESTIGATIONS

Mr. MCCONNELL. Now, Madam President, on one final matter, late last week, the Democratic leader and the Democratic whip gave in to the urge to pick at the scab of politically motivated investigations that have become their party's favorite weapon against the previous administration. They indicated that they were prepared to compel two former Attorneys General to testify before the Judiciary Committee on efforts to trace leaks of sensitive national security information.

In case anyone had forgotten, our colleagues are among the same Democrats who spent years demanding repeated investigations of a Republican President while turning a blind eye to the clear abuses of power that infected the investigation of his campaign. So any outrage from Democrats that alleged criminal leaks within their own ranks rightly drew the attention of Federal investigators rings completely hollow.

It is particularly disappointing that our colleagues have taken to attacking former Attorney General Bill Barr over investigative decisions that predated—predated—his time at the Department of Justice. Let me say that again. It is particularly disappointing that our colleagues have taken to attacking former Attorney General Bill Barr over investigative decisions that occurred when he wasn't there yet. Attorney General Barr served our Nation with honor and with integrity. These latest attempts to tarnish his name bear the telltale signs of a witch hunt in the making.

Here are the facts: The Department of Justice is empowered to investigate criminal conduct by Members of Congress and their staff. Necessarily, this sort of investigation is subject to strict procedural protections, and the Department's inspector general is fully equipped to determine whether these procedures were followed in this case. So I am confident that the existing inquiry will uncover the truth. There is no need for a partisan circus here in the Congress.

Mr. MCCONNELL. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ATTORNEY GENERAL INVESTIGATIONS

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, I just heard the Republican Senate leader warn us not to initiate partisan investigations. It has only been a few weeks since he personally vetoed a bipartisan investigation of the attack on the U.S. Capitol on January 6 of this year.

For those of us who lived through that incident, we find it hard to understand why a 9/11-style Commission, divided equally between both political parties, is in any way a partisan investigation and why the Republican leader, who has served for so long in the Senate, would not feel awkward, in a way, walking through the halls of this Capitol and seeing the men and women of the Capitol Police force who have sent us a letter begging for a Commission to get to the bottom of what happened on that day when 140 men and women in uniform were attacked by this insurrectionist mob inspired by President Trump.

So when it comes to investigations, we have offered the most sanitized version of an investigation that one could ever ask for.

So why are we renewing this request when it comes to the information which is now before us? Well, on Friday, the DOJ inspector general announced he would investigate DOJ's use of subpoenas to obtain communication data from Members of Congress and the media, including whether the Department of Justice complied with applicable internal policies and whether its decisions were motivated by improper considerations.

What happened was, the previous President, Donald Trump, apparently had some channel into the Department of Justice where he could call for investigations and information and data to be collected about Members of Congress. He highlighted two Democratic Members of Congress who were, coincidentally, members of an investigative committee of the House Intelligence Committee. And then it turns out, in the last 2 days, he called for an investigation of his own White House Counsel.

So it is very hard to follow who was in charge in the White House. The Attorneys General at the time denied having any connection whatsoever to these investigations, and certainly the White House Counsel wouldn't have called for an investigation of himself. So who was running the show? It is a legitimate question because it gets to not only the issue of leaks, which is important, of course, but it gets to the more fundamental question of separation of powers in this government.

If Members of Congress are subject to investigation by a President for something other than corruption, then certainly this can be translated into political pressure on those individuals.

So I find it hard to follow the logic of the Republican Senate leader, who denies an investigation of the January 6